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wherein said polypeptide is substantially free of transmembrane and ~~intracellular~~ domains ordinarily associated with hematopoietic receptors.

31. (amended) A chimeric polypeptide consisting essentially of a first portion and a second portion joined by a peptide bond, wherein said first portion [consisting essentially of] is a ligand binding domain of a receptor polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) a receptor polypeptide as shown in SEQ ID NO:2; and
- (b) allelic variants of SEQ ID NO:2[; and]
- (c) receptor polypeptides that are at least 80% identical to (a) or (b)],
 and wherein said second portion [consisting essentially of] is an affinity tag.

Please cancel claims 33-39.

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are now in this application. Claims 33-39 have been canceled. Claims 1, 13, 21, 26, and 31 have been amended to more specifically recite certain embodiments of Applicants' invention. No new matter has been added.

If for any reason the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (206) 442-6673.

Respectfully Submitted,

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